GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:259
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2017
Bonded Labour Rehabilitation Fund
Ering Shri Ninong;Ranjan (Pappu Yadav) Shri Rajesh

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a)the salient features of the Central Sector Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourers, 2016;
(b)the total contribution received under the Bonded Labour Rehabilitation Fund since the inception of the said scheme, State/UT-wise;
(c)whether the Central Monitoring Committee has prepared/submitted a report regarding the contribution to the said fund and if so, the details thereof;
(d)whether all State Governments have formed vigilance committees as mandated under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976; and
(e)if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor along with the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.
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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (e) of LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *259 FOR 20.03.2017 BY SHRI RAJESH RANJAN AND SHRI NINONG ERING REGARDING BONDED LABOUR REHABILITATION FUND.

(a) The salient features of the 'Central Sector Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourer, 2016' are as under:
(1) Financial assistance for rehabilitation of a rescued bonded labourer has been increased from Rs. 20,000/- to one lakh per adult male beneficiary, Rs. 2 lakh for special category beneficiaries such as children including orphans or those rescued from organized & forced begging rings or other forms of forced child labour, and women and Rs. 3 lakh in cases of bonded or forced labour involving extreme cases of deprivation or marginalization such as trans-genders, or woman or children rescued from ostensible sexual exploitation such as brothels, massage parlours, placement agencies etc., or trafficking, or in cases of differently abled persons, or in situations where the District Magistrate deems fit.
(2) The State Governments are not required to pay any matching contribution for the purpose of cash rehabilitation assistance.
(3) The Scheme provides for financial assistance of Rs. 4.50 lakh per district to the States for conducting survey of bonded labourers and Rs. 1.00 Lakh for evaluatory studies.
(4) The Scheme provides for financial assistance upto Rs. 10 Lakhs per State per annum for awareness generation.
(5) The release of rehabilitation assistance has been linked with conviction of the accused. In cases where the trial has not been concluded, but the District Administration has arrived at a prima facie finding and proof of bondage, then the proposal for cash assistance shall not be stopped for want of details of conviction. However, final disbursement of case assistance and non-cash assistance shall be made upon proof of bondage and other legal consequences as per judicial process.
(6) The Scheme provides for creation of a Bonded Labour Rehabilitation Fund at District level by each State with a permanent corpus of at least Rs. 10 lakh at the disposal of the District Magistrate for extending immediate help to the released bonded labourers.

(7) Fund is released by the Ministry under the Scheme to the District National Child Labour Project Society and the District Project Society in turn releases the fund to the implementing agencies including the district administration.
(8) The benefits prescribed above shall be, in addition to, other cash or non-cash benefits which a beneficiary under this scheme is entitled to, by or under any other scheme or law applicable for the time being in force. Further, the above benefits are in addition to other land and housing elements etc. as mentioned below:
â€¢ Allotment of house-site and agricultural land.
â€¢ Land development.
â€¢ Provision of low cost dwelling units.
â€¢ Animal husbandry, dairy, poultry, piggery etc.
â€¢ Wage employment, enforcement of minimum wages etc.
â€¢ Collection and processing of minor forest products.
â€¢ Supply of essential commodities under targeted public distribution system.
â€¢ Education for children.

(b): As mentioned above, under the revised Scheme the State Governments are not required to pay any matching contribution for the purpose of cash rehabilitation assistance. The Scheme came into effect in F.Y 2016-17 and the allocation during the year F.Y.2016-17 is Rs. 3.00 Crore.

(c): No, Madam.

(d) & (e): Under Section 13 of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, every State Government is under mandatory obligation to constitute Vigilance Committees in each district and each Sub-Division as it may think fit. The information on the number of Vigilance Committees constituted by the State Governments is not centrally maintained.

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